

receiving a command from a user at the user station;

responding to the received command by encapsulating multimedia data from the user station into a broadcast data unit retaining descriptive characteristics of the multimedia data and transmitting the broadcast data unit to the server;

receiving a data available message from the server;

responding to receipt of the data available message from the server to transmit a notification to the user station;

responding to a command from the user at the user station to request download of a broadcast data unit from the server; and

receiving the broadcast data unit from the server and multimedia data from the received broadcast data unit for access by the user at the user station.

17. (New) A computer-readable medium storing instructions which, if executed by a computer system, cause the computer system to perform a method for a user station to send and receive multimedia data to and from a server on a network, the multimedia data being stored on the server and accessible by at least one other user, the method comprising:

receiving a command from a user at the user station;

responding to the received command by encapsulating multimedia data from the user station into a broadcast data unit retaining descriptive characteristics of the multimedia data and transmitting the broadcast data unit to the server;

receiving a data available message from the server;

responding to receipt of the data available message from the server to transmit a notification to the user station;

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responding to a command from the user at the user station to request the download of a broadcast data unit from the server; and

receiving the broadcast data unit from the server and multimedia data from the received broadcast data unit for access by the user at the user station.

18. (New) A method for processing multimedia data from a user station by a server on a network, the multimedia data being accessible to at least one other user station, the method comprising:

receiving a broadcast data unit from the user station, the broadcast data unit encapsulating multimedia data;

storing the broadcast data unit;

sending a data available message to the at least one other user station regarding the stored broadcast data unit;

responding to a download request from the at least one other user station for the stored broadcast data unit based on the data available message; and

transmitting the stored broadcast data to the at least one other user station in response to the download request.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the storing of the broadcast data unit includes storing the broadcast data unit for later access by the at least one other user.

20. (New) A computer-readable medium storing instructions which, if executed by a computer system, cause the computer system to perform a method for processing multimedia data from a user station by a server on a network, the

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multimedia data being accessible to at least one other user station, the method comprising:

receiving a broadcast data unit from the user station, the broadcast data unit encapsulating multimedia data;

storing the broadcast data unit;

sending a data available message to the at least one other user station regarding the stored broadcast data unit;

responding to a download request from the at least one other user station for the stored broadcast data unit based on the data available message; and

transmitting the stored broadcast data unit to at least one other user station in response to the download request.

21. (New) A method for project collaboration between a first user and a second user over a network via a server, the project including at least one multimedia element, the method comprising:

accessing the multimedia element from the server by the first user;

modifying the accessed multimedia element by the first user;

sending the modified multimedia element to the server by the first user; and

broadcasting a message to the second user by the server that the multimedia element has been modified.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

requesting download of the modified multimedia element from the server by the second user based on the broadcasted message; and

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sending the modified multimedia element to the second user by the server in response to the download request from the second user.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein accessing the multimedia element includes accessing a version of the multimedia element.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein accessing a version of the multimedia element includes accessing a compressed version of the multimedia element.

25. (New) A method for project collaboration between a first user and a second user over a network via a server, the project including multimedia data, the method comprising:

creating a multimedia data element for the project by the first user;

sending to the server the created multimedia element by the first user;

broadcasting a message to the second user of the created multimedia element for the project by the server;

responding to the broadcasted message by the second user to request a download of the created multimedia element for the project; and

sending the created multimedia element to the second user in response to the download request.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising storing the created multimedia element by the server for later access by the second user.